



Palliative and End-of-Life Care Project 2015-2016

What Are We Doing?

NQF will convene a new Standing Committee to evaluate new and previously endorsed measures related to palliative and end-of-life care. Specifically, this project seeks measures addressing the various facets of palliative and end-of-life care, including, but not limited to physical, emotional, social, psychological, and spiritual aspects of care; access to and timeliness of care; patient and family experience with care; patient and family engagement; care planning; avoidance of unnecessary hospital or emergency department admissions; appropriateness of care; cost of care; and caregiver support.

Why Now?

Palliative care has been shown to improve quality of life, enhance information and communication, lower costs of care, and even help some patients live longer. Similarly, hospice care is viewed as high-quality care by both patients and their families. With the rapidly increasing population of older Americans, many of whom are living with chronic disease, there is a vital need for high-quality palliative care in all settings of care. Yet, access to such care is highly variable in the hospital setting, with estimates suggesting that more than 1 million hospitalized patients per year could benefit from palliative care but do not receive it. Although access to palliative care in the outpatient and other settings is growing, it is still limited. More than 1.5 million Americans receive hospice care each year. Meanwhile, improvement is still needed for end-of-life care in the hospice setting, even though there has been much progress in improving such care across the past several years. Consensus on endorsed measures that capture the important structure, processes, and outcomes of palliative and end-of-life care will help to improve access to these services as well as drive improvement.

How Can Members Get Involved?

NQF members are strongly encouraged to provide their valuable input and perspective to this new effort. There are numerous opportunities to get involved, outlined below:

OCT 15 - FEB 9	<i>Nominate Standing Committee members</i>
OCT 15 - FEB 29	<i>Submit measures</i>
MAR 28 - APR 11	<i>Comment on proposed measures</i>
MAY 10 - 11	<i>Join the Standing Committee deliberations</i>
JUN 20 - JUL 19	<i>Participate in our public and member comment period</i>

Organizations that are not yet NQF members but are interested in measurement of palliative and end-of-life care should consider joining to add their diverse perspectives to this important work.

Learn more about:

[Palliative and End-of-Life Care 2015-2016](#)

Sign up for alerts to follow this project.

NQFGo is a member benefit